

REMARKS

In this response, claims 15, 39, and 41 have been amended. The amendments are fully supported by the originally filed application. Thus, no new matter is introduced. Claims 1-14, 19 and 42-48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and the Applicant reserves the right to pursue subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuing applications. Reconsideration of pending claims 15-18, 20-41 and 49 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 19 is objected to as being allegedly of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicant has cancelled claim 19 rendering the objection of such claim moot. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the objection of claim 19 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 48 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying the allowable subject matter. Independent claim 15 is currently amended to include the subject matter indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant requests allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-20, 30-42 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over WO/2003/102091 (“Takahashi”), where U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0277543 is used as the English translation. Claims 21-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi in view

of U.S. Patent No. 6,037,289 (“Chopin”). Claims 19 and 42 are cancelled, rendering the rejection of such claims moot. The Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to expedite issuance of allowable subject matter identified in claim 48. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the 103(a) rejection of claims 15 be withdrawn.

The remaining pending claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 15, and thus, include the features of the independent claim. It is respectfully submitted that the pending dependent claims are allowable over the cited references based on their dependence on the independent claim, which includes subject matter that has been indicated as allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the 103(a) rejection of the dependent claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2099 regarding any questions or concerns associated with the present matter. If any fees are due in connection with this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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